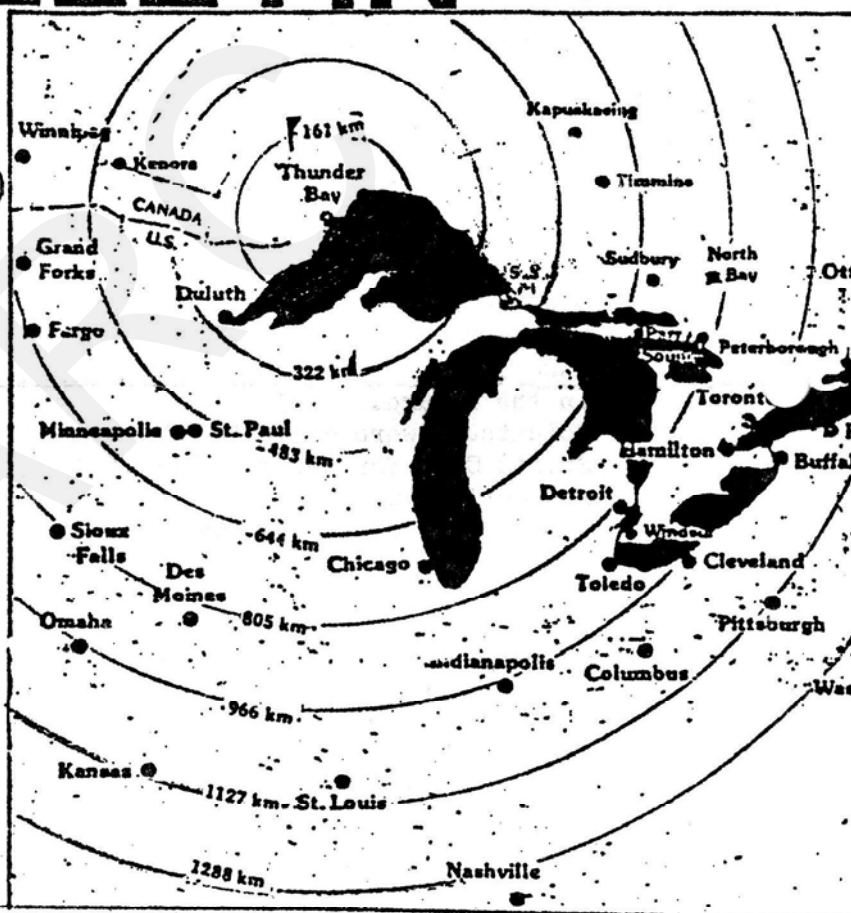


HI-Q

MAR - - 1987

LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB BULLETIN



REPEATERS

TBR 146.82

YQT 147.06

FOUNDED 1934

CLUB STATION

VE3FW

INCORPORATED 1979

Minutes For Executive Meeting February 9, 1987

Present: VE3 BBS, BCD, XT, NHX, JSC, and AUP.

Discussed was Upcoming Dinner

Power supply repairs for VE3TBR.

The new battery and charger which was donated by VE3BBS

Questionairs prepared by the Long Range planning committee.

Minutes for the General Meeting February 12, 1987.

The minutes from the last meeting were motioned to be accepted by VE3KRH and seconded by VE3NHX.

The Financial Statement was read with an opening balance of \$3087.25 and a closing balance of \$2970.87. For further details contact the treasurer.

Incoming paper for the month of January and the first part of February included phone bills, station licenses (which had a change in sponser), the GARF newsletter, various books, and a few bulletins from other clubs in southern Ontario.

The Long Range Planning Questionair was discussed again.

Members were informed that the Radio Coverage on the Snowmobile Races Was excellent, and appreciated.

VE3ILV won the 50/50 draw but was not present to claim his winnings, and the pot grows once more.

Don McKenzie held a somewhat short seminar on his new position as Emergency Measures Organizer, the future of LARC in disasters, and the possibility of a LARC meeting place in the future.

Volunteers were solicited for the Sibly Ski Tour and T/Bay Auto Sports Club for the dates March 7 and FEB 28 - March 1, 1987 respectively.

A motion to close was put forth by VE3KRH and seconded by VE3JAJ.

AR.

February Newsletters

It has been brought to my attention that several February issues of HI-Q have disappeared in the mail. I say this because I remember quite vividly addressing and stamping HI-Qs to everyone of the members who have at this time indicated that they did not receive an issue for February. Copies have been mailed once again to those who did not recieve one previously and with any luck at all they should have already arrived.

If you should notice that your HI-Q is late on arriving (if it is the second Thursday of the month) please let me know at the meeting or phone me when convenient. As for the past, I am sorry for the inconvenience and I will try and prevent this from happening in the future.

Garnet VE3AUP.

How To Build A Simple “J” Antenna For 2 Meters

BY JOSEPH M. PLESICH*, W8DYF

You say you've just splurged for a new 2 meter bells-and-whistles rig, but now you don't have money left over to buy the super-duper antenna to go with it. Or perhaps you'd like to have a second antenna, an omnidirectional one, for monitoring with the second rig while your other rig is on the beam working packet. Whatever your reasons are for wanting a 2 meter antenna, it's tough to beat the tried-and-true, simple "J" antenna. It's effective, inexpensive, and easy to construct and tune. Here's how I built one for just a couple of bucks, and it does a great job for me.

First, obtain a piece of half-inch copper piping, 10 feet long. I bought mine on sale at a local discount store. I built my first "J" out of a piece of thin-wall electrical tubing, and it worked fine. But the copper tubing is lighter and a little easier to work with.

Next, measure 21 inches from one of the ends and cut it so that you now have two pieces of pipe—one 21 inches long and the other one 99 inches long. (See fig. 1.)

Now look at fig. 2. I used a piece of 2 by 4 inch printed circuit board to connect the two pieces of pipe. Since the PC board is so thin, I used a double thickness of it for extra strength. You can use anything you like, only make sure you short the two pieces of pipe together. Measure your pipe again and make sure you have 19 inches above the shorting strap on the small pipe and 57 inches above the shorting strap for the long pipe.

Above the shorting strap fasten a piece of acrylic or similar insulating block for stability and to maintain spacing. Your antenna will now be rigid and strong. That's it. Except for tuning, your "J" antenna is now finished.

As you know, the "J" antenna is just a half-wave radiator fed by a quarter-wave

matching stub. To tune it, all you have to do is put an SWR bridge in the line between your rig and the antenna. The coax is fastened to the antenna with two worm-drive stainless-steel hose clamps. I put the shield on the short pipe and the center conductor on the long pipe. I've been told you can do it vice-versa with no difference in operation.

I tuned my antenna outside on the picnic table with my hand-held and a little SWR bridge. I held the antenna on top of the picnic table with one hand and keyed

the rig with the other hand. I just kept sliding the clamps with the coax up and down the antenna until a good match was achieved. You should be able to get the SWR below 1.5 to 1 easily. The point at which I achieved the best match was 2¾ inches above the shorting strap. Yours may be different.

After tuning is completed, wrap electrical tape around the coax and put some silicone rubber on the coax where it is clamped to the antenna to prevent water from getting into the coax.

To mount the "J," you can use a couple more hose clamps to fasten the antenna to another mast. At my house I clamped it to a vent pipe on the roof and ran the coax into the shack.

Granted, you can go out and buy a vertical for \$20 to \$50 that will work just as well as or better than this simple "J." However, you will be quite pleased with the performance and durability of this little antenna for the time, effort, and money it takes to construct it. And, there is a certain amount of fun and personal satisfaction to be had by working other stations on an antenna you have constructed yourself. I have a good location and some good commercial antennas, but I still get quite a kick out of being full-quieting into a repeater 50 miles away with this "J." Try it and enjoy. That's what amateur radio is all about.

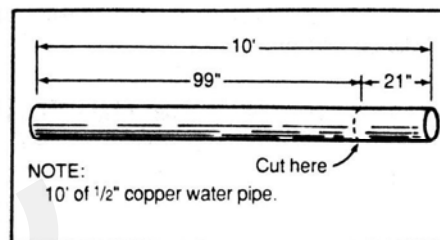


Fig. 1- The basic antenna comes from a 10 foot length of ½ inch copper water pipe cut as shown.

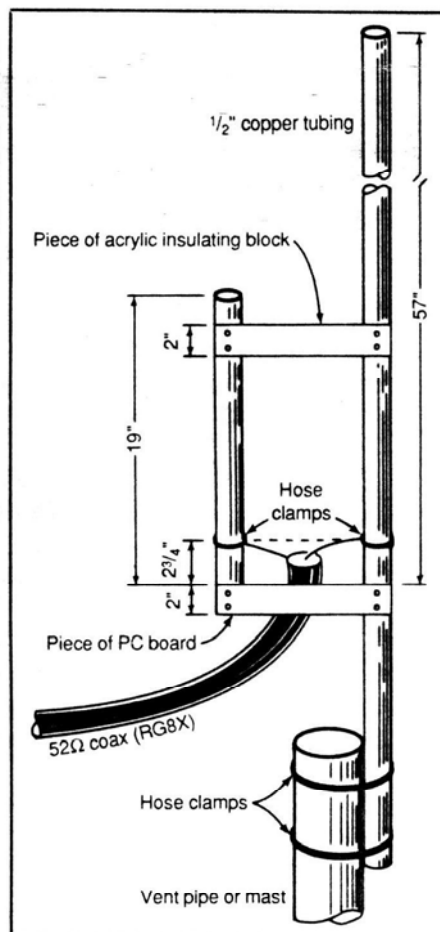


Fig. 2—The completed antenna diagram. As you can see the basic idea is simple, and it can be made with ordinary tools.

COMMENT:

Well, February is fast coming to a close and most of us are looking forward to the warmer, more conducive antenna weather. I don't know if we are ever going to get a winter like this again. I recall climbing the tower with JAJ in December and working up a sweat. It sure has been good for that. With that idea in mind I was leafing through the February issue of CQ and came across a simple project for a J pole 2 Meter antenna. It looks relatively easy to construct, however, at the time of writing, I must admit I have not tried it as yet. Hopefully before the March meeting and I can give you some first hand ideas. It would seem that is well within the budget of all of us.

Thanks to all who attended the Annual Dinner. It was super to see everyone there and congratulations go out to VE3OTV the proud owner of a new ICOM 02AT hand held. This door prize was made available through the kind courtesy of Atlantic Ham Radio and Icom.

Upcoming we have the Thunder Bay Auto Sport Ice Racing on 28 February and 01 March and if you are interested in taking part, get hold of Les, JAJ or myself. Also, the Sibley Ski Tour is upcoming on March 7th, and should prove to be most interesting. Again if your interested get hold of myself either on 2 Meters or at home. 767 2307.

Enclosed with this issue is the list of Amateurs presently licensed in Thunder Bay. Due to unforeseen circumstances we didn't get it included in last months HI-Q. Again, I would ask if there are any changes to be made, please get in touch with me so that the list can be updated. I intend to expand on it as time permits to include most of Northwestern Ontario.

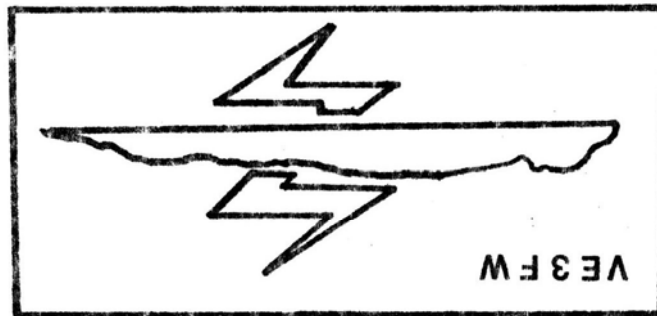
Some of the members who monitor YQT have, no doubt, heard the peculiar racket of packet on the repeater. This is in the experimental stages and stations presently working packet are VE3BQR, Bill, VE3KRP, Ed, VE3JAR, Vic (Atikokan) and yours truly VE3BBS. We do attempt to voice ID every now and again but sometimes in the heat of things we do forget. If you want to use the repeater, just break in and give a holler and will cease the QSO for you. As of this writing we have a sked with JAR in Atikokan every Monday evening and this will probably increase. Anybody that wants to see how packet works get hold of one the stations shown above and I'm sure they would more than happy to oblige to show how packet works. Its a fascinating new mode of Amateur Radio, however I must agree it may not be for all, but it's new and don't knock it before you try it.

At the Dinner gathering I put my foot in it with the Round Table, now the wife wants equal time. You will remember that they don't like being called -.- -.- -.-... so with that in mind look for the article. Who knows, it may start something new in HI-Q. If you girls want to submit an article for publication, get in touch with Linda.

Don't forget the March meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the EMO building on Thursday March 12th, and also the Executive Meeting Monday March 9th, same place, but at 7:00 p.m. We have the Brinks truck hired for the lucky person that wins the 50/50 draw. Until then,

Best 73,s


Skip, VE3BBS



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H1-Q

FIRST CLASS